GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6713
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2003
PRESENCE OF INDIAN NAVY
A. VENKATESH NAIK;KAILASH MEGHWAL;RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy has confined itself to the coasts and did not show its presence in the area of strategic interest to India as reported in the 'Hindustan Times', New Delhi, dated March 15, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the average period for which Indian Navy is capable of operating far away from its coasts without having to dock for replenishment;

(d) whether the Government would assess the future role of the Indian Navy; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to initiate a change in operational philosophy of Indian Navy?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e): The period for which Indian Navy can operate offshore, without having to dock for replenishment, would depend upon its operational requirement like distance from coast, size of ship etc. Upgradation/Augmentation of Indian Navy is a continuous process dictated primarily by the threat perceptions, prevailing external strategic/security environment and also the emerging technologies.